REMARKS

New claims 28-40 have been added, contain no new matter, and are supported in the specification. Thus, claims 14-40 are in this application.

New claims 28-40 as presented herein are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. These claims are presented, not for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103, or 112, but simply to clarify the invention and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

This supplemental amendment accompanies the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith; and is in further response to the Final Office Action dated June 26, 2002. In that Final Action, claims 14, 16, 17, 18, 20-21, 23, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter not sufficiently described in the specification. The Examiner objected to the term "three-dimensional image model."

Since the term "three-dimensional image model" is not used in the new claims 28-40 presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 28-40 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as related to such term.

The present invention claims an apparatus and method that is described below and well-supported throughout the application at, for example, line 17 of page 15 to line 7 of page 17.

Figs. 5 and 6 illustrate a first image data generating means, photographic unit (5), that generates two-dimensional ("2D") image data representing, for example, the person's face, having eyes, nose and mouth, in image (57).

As also shown in Figs. 5 and 6, a second image data generating means, 3D image source (4), uses known computer graphic techniques to generate three-dimensional ("3D") image data, including image data representing a portion, that is, the face (56a) having no eyes, nose and mouth, of an actual three-dimensional object, the person (56), shown in image (55).

Continuing to refer to Figs. 5 and 6, an image synthesizing means (51) uses computer graphic techniques to combine the 2D image data, representing the face having eyes, etc. in image (57), with the 3D image data, representing the face (56a) having no eyes, etc., to produce synthetic image (58).

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Fig. 5 and 6 further illustrate that parallax image train generator (52) utilizes synthetic image (58) to generate parallax image train comprising images (59a), (59b), and (59c). These images are used subsequently in forming a holographic stereogram.

Claims 14-16, 17, 18-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly including indefinite terms.

Since the terms "three-dimensional image model" and "three-dimensional model" are not used in new claims 28-40 presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 28-40 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as related to such terms.

Claims 15, 19, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships.

New claims 29, 33, 36 and 38 each recite, in part, "recording each image of the parallax image train as an element hologram on a sensitive material by exposing the sensitive material to an object beam and reference beam at the same time."

Applicants submit that the present application supports the above-quoted limitation at, in particular, lines 6-13 of page 14. See also, page 7 (lines 12, 14-19), page 8 (fourth paragraph), page 10 (last line), page 11, (first line), line 6 of page 14 to line 1 of page 15, and page 15 (lines 7-17).

Further, since new claims 28-40 presented herein either clarify or do not use the terms "generated image," "captured image," "separate image," "rendering an image" and "omitted portions," Applicants submit that new claims 28-40 comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as related to such terms. Applicants further submit that the term "rendering" is commonly used in the holographic arts (see, for example, www.media.mit.edu, stating therein that "holographic stereograms are generated from…a set of rendered or optically captured parallax views of a scene.").

Claims 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabata (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,597).

Tabata discloses that a first piece of image data, and a second piece of image data, inserted therein, are both pieces of two-dimensional image data (lines 26-27 of col. 10; lines 61-64 of col. 28). Since Tabata fails to disclose combining two-dimensional image data with, specifically, three-dimensional image data, as claimed in new claims 28-40, Applicants submit that new claims 28-40 are distinguishable over Tabata.

Claims 15, 19, 22, 24, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) a being unpatentable over Tabata in view of Benton (U.S. Patent No. 4,834,476).

Since the Examiner does not appear to rely on Benton to cure the above-described deficiencies in Tabata, Applicants submit that new claims 28-40 are therefore distinguishable over the applied combination of Tabata and Benton for at least reasons similar to those previously discussed.
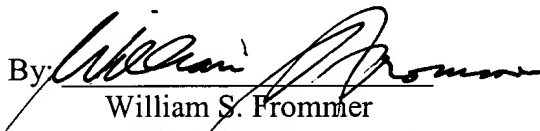
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

The foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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